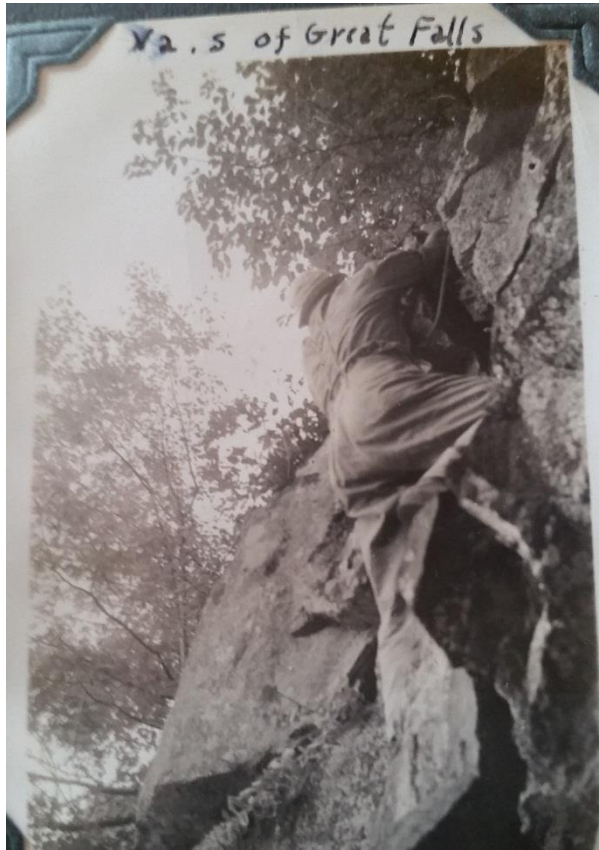


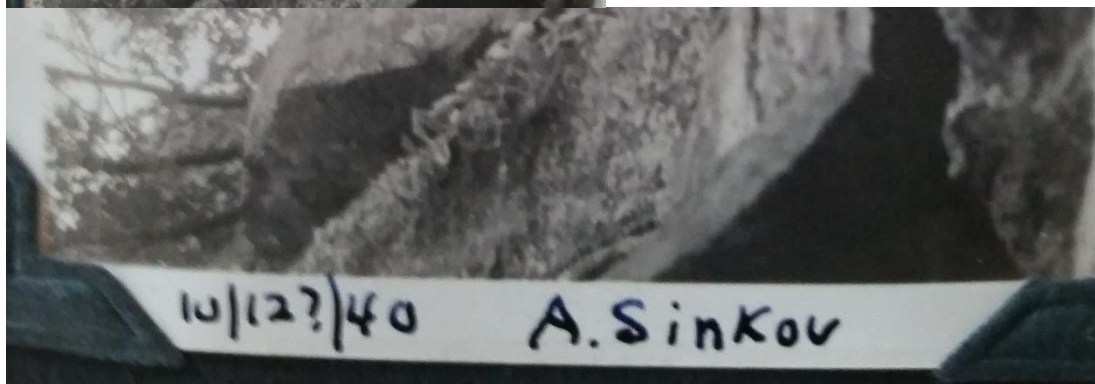
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH --- A Serendipitous Find 22 May



Admittedly, the photograph doesn't look like it belongs here.

The picture just looks like what it is, a souvenir of a weekend of strenuous and possibly perilous activity. The face of the individual climbing a rock wall cannot be seen.

However, the importance of the picture is explained in the caption:



Abraham Sinkov was the second person hired by William Friedman in April 1930 to become a "junior cryptologist" for the U.S. Army. He was a major figure in cryptologic work in the Army, and later NSA, for the next three decades. During World War II, he was commanding officer of the Combined Bureau, a joint U.S.-Australian organization that exploited Japanese communications. After the war,

he was chief of COMSEC (predecessor to today's Information Assurance), and then a key figure in the SIGINT organization.

The finder of the photograph, himself a rock climber on occasion, commented that this was "dangerous work. It gives you a different perspective on the guy." Indeed it does.

This previously unknown photograph of Sinkov was found by Thomas R. Johnson, a retired CCH historian. Tom in retirement increased his commitment to and activities in the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and in addition to hiking and preservation work, he is collecting materials on the trail's history. Recently, he was sent seven thick photo albums by a woman in Ohio who was clearing out materials from a deceased relative who had been a Club member several decades ago. Tom said the pictures "gave us our first understanding of what our trails looked like in the late 1930s," and the unexpected Sinkov photograph was an exciting find for a retired cryptologic historian.

502 captions: photo 1: a man, face unseen, climbing a perpendicular rock formation, viewed from below; photo 2: a label reading "10/12/40 A. Sinkov"